



Supporting Family Systems

RESOURCES TO CONNECT YOUR WORK

Use these additional resources to learn more about systems thinking and reflective practice. Follow the links below to access each resource or pull it off your bookshelf.

GENERAL EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCES

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

<http://www.naeyc.org/files/yc/file/200601/ChristianBTJ.pdf>

EXPLORE: Understanding Families: Applying Family Systems Theory to Early Childhood Practice

This article uses family systems theory to better understand family behavior and provides strategies for working with a family's boundaries, roles, rules, and hierarchy.

Head Start — Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC)

http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/pfce_simulation/index.html

EXPLORE: Boosting School Readiness through Effective Family Engagement

This video provides concrete communication strategies, sample vignettes, and reflective discussion to explore building relationships with families to support school readiness.

Child Trends

<http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2014-44BCultureCountsFullReport1.pdf>

EXPLORE: Culture Counts: Engaging Black and Latino Parents of Young Children in Family Support Programs

This brief identifies strategies that may be most effective in engaging Black and Latino families in the context of family support programs.

RTI Action Network: A Program of the National Center for Learning Disabilities

<http://www.rtinetwork.org/essential/family/engagingfamilies>

EXPLORE: Engaging Families in Early Childhood Education

This article offers strategies for maintaining effective communication and building productive partnerships with families.

Family Interaction: A Multigenerational Developmental Perspective, 5th Ed.

EXPLORE: *The Family as a System (Chapter 1; pp. 1–19)*

Although not focused specifically on early childhood education, this chapter gives an overview of family systems, providing conceptual models to understand patterns and interactions within families.

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CALIFORNIA RESOURCES

California Infant/Toddler Learning & Development Program Guidelines

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/documents/itguidelines.pdf>

EXPLORE: *The Nature of Relationships between Programs and Families p. 11*

This section discusses how an infant/toddler program is a system of relationships and emphasizes the relationship between the family and the child's teacher as key to understanding the family's perspective.

California Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Program Guidelines

Companion DVD—Disc 1—Section 1

EXPLORE: *Providing Family-Oriented Programs*

This video illustrates how you can make your early learning space more family-friendly.

California Early Childhood Educator Competencies

<https://youtu.be/OU2F1cwXeIA?list=PLhOEVkEub6hFZnVYwzEIY695fUllfs0G7>

EXPLORE: *Family and Community Engagement*

In this video, learn strategies to help families feel welcome, encourage open communication, and increase their engagement in your early childhood education program.

For more information on Supporting Family Systems go to E4's PD2GO website.